

Fraser Public Advisory Group (Fraser PAG)

Preliminary Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2006

1. Call to order

Keith Chapman, RPF, Zimmermann Forest Products Ltd. Environment Programs Advisor, called the preliminary meeting to order of the Fraser Public Advisory Group at 5:05 p.m. on August 29, 2006, *The Pantry* restaurant, Chilliwack, BC.

2. Registration of FRASER PAG participants

Fraser PAG participants were asked to ensure their contact information was correct.

The following participants were registered: Sharie Conroy, and alternate Bruce Edwards, Hatzic Valley, Durieu, McConnell Creek Ratepayers Association, Shawn Gabriel, In-SHUCK-ch First Nation, Don Harris, Douglas First Nation / In-SHUCH-ch FN, Chief Andy Alex, Union Bar FN, Wayne Gentry (Alternate for Chief Andy Alex), Chief Sidney Douglas, Cheam Indian Band, Garry Davidson, Seabird Island Indian Band, Martin Edwards, Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation, John Warren, Boston Bar First Nation, Al Stobbart, Inch Creek Hatchery, Earl Graham, United Steel Workers, Keith Warren, Fraser Valley Regional District, Jim Baker, Boston Bar Resident.

Invited Participants Absent: Jean Warkentin, Norrish Creek Resident, Gordon Sherwood, Cacus Point Resident, Lloyd Foreman, Boston Bar Resident, Dan Gerak, Pitt River Lodge, Steve Harvey, Hope Machine Shop.

Others Present: Keith Chapman, RPF, Teal J Group Environmental Department, John Pichugin - RPF, Manager, Engineering & Forestry (TJG); Chris Harvey, RPF, Zimmermann Forest Products Ltd. Environmental Programs Advisor, Kevin Stanczyk, RPF, TJG, Divisional Engineer, Ed McWaters, RPF, May Trucking Ltd, Divisional Engineer, Brian Taylor, RPF, May Trucking Ltd., Forest Land Manager.

Action items: Update contact information and present to Fraser PAG members at next meeting.

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3. Agenda

Keith Chapman presented the Agenda

4. Participant Introductions

Each participant introduced themselves, and the party they represent. The following comments from members were noted:

- Interested in how the FL and TL is managed
- Concern with forestry related impacts to their community
- Sharie Conroy relayed that she represented the Hatzic etc ratepayers and its concerns with respect to forestry and not the "environment" sector as was indicated as her Sector. She felt that she did not

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have the mandate nor the “science background” to adequately represent “Environment”. Sharie suggested that the “Private Landowners” sector would be more appropriate.

- Sharie Conroy suggested that a hydrologist would be important to the group, Chris Harvey offered to consider it for the future “Water” topic
- Land stability raised as an issue of concern
- Full time & sustainable employment
- Slide show initiated by Keith C, reviewed meeting agenda, members and sectors and those not attending this meeting.

Keith asked the group if they felt there were any sectors of society that were not well represented by those present? The following suggestions were made:

- Railways (suggested by Chief Andy Alex) which experience some impacts from forest activities with respect to their stream crossings (debris jams, landslides); Graham ___ suggested as a potential representative; Keith Chapman offered to follow up with Chief Alex for contact information
- A representative from the Forest Service (MOF) was suggested as a potential representative by John Warren and Brian Taylor. Their experience with the Lillooet PAG found that the MOF representatives brought a wealth of information and background to the group and were important in the education aspects around forest issues. Keith Chapman suggested that the MOF already held a big role in legislation, policy, and planning; also that sometimes government is reluctant to personally represent government due to potential conflicts. Agreed with John W. that this would be very helpful for the public education aspect. MOF contacts: Jim McGuinness and Russ Knutson were offered by the group. Agreed to invite a MOF representative.
- A representative from Agriculture was suggested by Bruce Edwards as necessary as this sector experiences negative impacts from forestry. A figure of \$2 million was put forward by Bruce Edwards as a cost to Agriculture due to forestry. Keith Chapman offered to follow up with Bruce for potential Ag representative.

Action items: contact Railways, MOF, Agriculture to inquire about membership

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5. Background Information

Company: Slide show, by John Pichugin. Presentation covered overview of The Teal Jones Group (TJG), history and growth of TJG (family owned and operated), its size relative to other coastal operators, (comparatively - WFP manages 60% of cut on entire coast), location of timber and mill operations, specialty state of the art small log mill (19 inch maximum log diameter), generally who the customers are, etc. John P opened for questions on the TJG. The group did not have any questions at that time.

Logging Operations: Slide show by Kevin Stanczyk (TJG) gave overview of single stem / “snap and fly” logging practices used for visual objectives & environment protection where heavy retention is required or where conventional access is not possible, second growth harvesting, the use of feller buncher harvesters on flat ground with second growth, road rehabilitation in sensitive areas and re-vegetation, windfirming harvest boundaries adjacent to high value streams (spiral pruning by hand or topping) and its success in managing blowdown, bear den conservation, working with First Nations (procurement of a canoe log).

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Fraser Timber Supply Area (TSA): Slide show by Keith C. Gave overview of the TSA and how management is set up within the TSA and its context to the Fraser PAG. Boundary = that of the Chilliwack Forest District. Gave overview of size of TSA, how it is administered, human populations and growth, the number of First Nations with asserted territory, biological and climatic diversity. Showed relative proportions of the TSA available for harvest, not available for harvest (Parks, managed by Regional Districts, Ecological Reserves, not accessible or economical to harvest, etc) and area not managed by the MOF (Private forest land, FN's reservations etc). Gave overview of AAC: definition, current AAC (1.27 million cubic meters), how AAC is determined by the provincial forester, AAC calculation and determination, and information that the Chief Forester considers and his independence from the political process.

Timber Tenures: Slide show by Keith C. Gave overview of the main BC forest tenures (Forest Licenses [FL], Tree Farm Licenses), how harvesting rights are allocated and that these rights only apply to timber and not other forest values, how FLs are volume based tenures with chart areas.

Forest License A19201 & Timber License T0822: Keith C. gave slide show overview of these licenses, their general locations, its AAC, and main harvest tree species and second growth. Introduced the term "Defined Forest Area" (DFA) to describe these licenses for the purposes of the certification initiative. John Pichugin offered a corrected AAC for TJG tenures as about 314, 000 cubic meters. JP gave background information on the BC government timber tenure volume talkback (20% take back). The government took back a total of about 167,000 cubic meters from TJG as a whole, and about 37,500 cubic meters from the Fraser TSA. Keith Chapman continued with presentation with list of current management issues that affect the DFA. A question from the group was raised about "down slope drainage, slides etc". Keith Chapman explained that those issues were incorporated with "soils" (erosion, mass wasting) and "water".

Sustainable Resource Management Planning (SRM Planning): Keith Chapman gave overview of SRM Planning within the TSA: new initiative by government, incorporates and streamlines other - often overlapping planning strategies, provides stability for forest operators in that they know where and where they cannot operate. Discussed the Coquihalla Landscape Unit (LU) as an example of completed SRM planning, how many LU in total within the DFA and how many have completed LU plans. Pointed out that SRM Planning could be confused with other plans such as the "Sustainable Forest Management Plan" because of the use of the terms "sustainable", "Resource", "forest" and "plans" when referring to often wildly different initiatives.

6. **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**, Chris Harvey, Zimmermann Forest Products Ltd.

Definition of SFM: CH reviewed definition given on Page 12 of handout.

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM): CH discussed the linkage between the Rio conference and the CSA standard

Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z809-2002 Standard and SFM framework: CH gave overview of how the SFM Plan provides a vehicle for transferring SFM commitments to the ground.

Choosing Values Objective, Indicators and Targets: CH gave definition of "value", "objective", "indicator". Discussed how indicators are chosen and how they must be measurable, predictable, or quantitative in order to set a target. Discussed how, when choosing an indicator it needs to be simple, factually based and feasible. Gave definition of "Target" and discussed how they are set. Discussed the linkages between a "Value", its objective, indicators, and the target. Gave examples using elk/ deer and personal health as a value.

7. **Terms of Reference** Keith Chapman

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- The Terms of Reference were reviewed: content of meetings, timelines and number of meetings, communication (external: spokespersons, contact person for inquiries, website with relevant information, and guest speakers) entirely read through. Keith Chapman asked group if the current time slot was agreeable to members. Time was ok for group except member attending from Mt Currie near Pemberton. Discussed email issues (downloads) with members with dial up in rural communities and sending info via email. Members requested that the dates be written out (i.e., calendar for clarity).
- Internal communications were discussed: code of conduct expected from members towards other members, how decisions by the group are made and dispute resolution. A question was raised by a member as to how a majority vote would work to make a decision when that decision could affect sectors differently. Chris Harvey spoke to this: her experience is that there is almost always a clear consensus, that differences can be discussed and reviewed in more detail or set aside as an action plan to revisit later after more information is gathered, etc.
- Keith Chapman discussed adjusting the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the role of the PAG in this process. Participants were then asked to sign the "Membership Sign-off" indicating agreement with the Terms of Reference. At this time a comment was raised that participants had not had enough time to review the TOR so it was difficult to sign at this time. Keith Chapman explained that members could sign at this time if they were comfortable with them or review the full document handout and sign off at the next meeting. It was explained that participants would need to agree to the TOR in order to participate in future meetings. The sign-off sheet was circulated among the participants. Members were offered a travel allowance of \$25 each for those that lived outside of the Chilliwack area. Comments from several participants indicated that \$25 was not adequate for participants traveling as far as Mt Currie. John Pichugin indicated that was a very good point, when Teal started this process, we did not have any idea who was going to attend, quite surprised to have members coming from as far away as Mt Currie. Teal really appreciates their membership. Participants were asked to indicate "TA" (Travel Allowance) beside their name if they lived outside of the Chilliwack area.
- Participants signed-off on the Terms of Reference to become registered Fraser PAG members. Four participants elected to abstain from signing at this time and consider for future.

Action items: - create list of meeting dates for members,
- follow up with participants that have not signed Terms of Reference.

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8. Next Meeting Agenda:

The Agenda for the next meeting (Biodiversity) was reviewed by Keith Chapman. John Warren raised the point that the centralized (Chilliwack) location not as good for public input, it doesn't spread the benefits (i.e. restaurant business) around the communities associated with the DFA, and it doesn't address participants attending from Mt Currie. He suggested that the group meet at the various communities associated with the DFA. John Pichugin spoke to this: he respected these points and they were well taken, Teal had no idea of the number of people that would participate and where they would come from and picked a location that was the easiest for the majority of the people. John suggested that this issue could be revisited at future meetings.

Keith Chapman asked the group to put forward any biodiversity values that they would like to raise now to be addressed at the next meeting. John Warren commented that he felt it would be premature to put forward these values as members did not have a chance to review the background to this. John suggested reviewing the CSA standard would be a good starting point. Chris Harvey suggested that a summary of the CSA Sustainable Forest Management Standard is included in the introduction package, as well as direction on where to find the full standard on the web. At this point Keith Chapman read out page 18 and 19 of the "*Fraser Public Advisory Group Preliminary Meeting*" handout (CSA Sustainable Forest

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Management Standard, Systematic Approach [Adaptive Management Loop], Public Participation, Sustainable Forest Management Performance and CCFM SF Criteria 1: Biological Diversity) to provide additional background. Participants were asked again if they had values for biodiversity to put forward. No participants volunteered any values for Biodiversity. Keith Chapman agreed to defer this step until the next meeting so that members had more opportunity to review the background information.

The information package for the next meeting was not ready at this time but would be emailed or mailed out to participants.

Questions were raised by Earl Graham: What is certification? What does it mean? Keith Chapman responded that the certification means that a 3rd party auditor has confirmed that the SFM Plan that the PAG group will work towards is being successfully implemented on the ground and is part of the company's long term management. Potentially, any future branding would allow a customer to purchase forest products that have been certified as originating from a sustainably managed forest. Customers are increasing their interest and desire to purchase certified wood. Brian Taylor added that one of Teal's mills was asked by a large customer how much wood is certified to which they had to say "none" and the customer was lost. John P added that all major licensee's on the coast have some type of certification process. All of Teal's mills certified, TFL 46 on southern Vancouver Island is CSA certified. The company has full certification as a goal. The company has Standard Operating Procedures that are rules that must be followed before and during harvesting and checklists to ensure that due diligence (corporate responsibility) is carried out at each step of the planning, harvesting, road building, and dry land sorts. Keith Chapman reviewed the background information in pages 18 and 19 which summarizes what is certification.

Earl asked about the spotted owl Sustainable Resource Management Zones (SRMZ) and what happens if they want to make changes to these areas? Keith Chapman answered that the SRMZ's for spotted owl are produced in a government process that is outside of what the PAG membership can steer, however there is some flexibility if the management is not working.

Sharie Conroy submitted a letter (email) from her organization clarifying their concerns. Letter suggested contacting environmental organizations: Greenpeace, Sierra Legal Defense Fund, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, and Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

Action items: - send out information package for next meeting by email or regular mail (for members without email),

- contact environment groups for potential membership.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The Next FRASER PAG Meeting will be held September 19, 2006 at the Pantry Restaurant, Chilliwack